

Sam going  
to Broadchurch  
with Louisa  
Buckland to know  
p. of Hales Birthday.

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Hobart. 8 Nov 1891

Sunday night.

Dearest Kid,

I was sorry not to be  
able to write you last mail,  
but I was so worried about  
one of these F&H Bank actions  
that I really had no time.

It was all through that  
miserable mail closing on  
Saturday instead of Monday  
morning. This time, Sam &  
Kathie have written, but I  
suppose I had better supplement  
their news.

Influenza is raging here.  
Nearly every house has it, more  
or less. After Connie & Frances  
(the housemaid) had it, we  
seem to have got rid of it.  
We are not much given to taking



these epidemics, & I hope we  
shall escape now, for it seems  
to be abating. It has been  
rather severe; poor old Neil  
Lewis died of it last Sunday.  
Old Mrs Sprent has had a  
sharp attack, & has been hanging  
between life & death, but seems  
to have now turned the corner.  
They have had it at the Friends'  
School. The housekeeper died,  
a small boy, a Kennedy,  
one of the family that used  
to live in Antill Street, collapsed  
suddenly from a weak heart.

George Walch is now in town,  
& is fairly on the road to recovery.  
He came from Upsalwa in one  
day. I thought it very risky,  
but he was apparently none  
the worse for the journey.



I have seen Willie Friday  
two or three times. He has gone  
home to Douglas Park, & will  
not be fit for work for some  
months. This leaves all the  
work to Arthur Hatchorn, & he  
unfortunately got the influenza  
& has been laid up most of the  
week, though not dangerously  
ill. I went over to day to  
see him.

Last Sunday night I went  
up to Launceston in a special  
train. Robert Mather also  
went on his way to Melbourne  
to try to arrange affairs. It  
is likely that the stoppage of  
the T & A Bank will bring  
them to grief, but very likely  
they may pay a composition.  
H Pollard has had to assign  
his estate. That means that he

is practically bankrupt.  
The squashes are coming fast  
now & I think we shall have  
a bad time.

I went to Launceston about  
the T & A case, but had time  
to see a few friends. I was there  
all Monday & returned by  
Tuesday's express. I had tea  
at Oakley Tyslis. They have  
a nice cottage on the Elphin  
Road & Sean looks very well.  
Oakley is not so fat as he was.  
The same evening I went to  
Waterhouses. They are as usual.  
Little Janet is a very charming  
little child. She was in bed  
but insisted on my going in to  
see her, & chatted away most  
amusingly. I had a chance  
to see Annie. She only came  
back from Panshanger on  
Tuesday, but I saw Parky



2 Who is flourishing. The Exhibition is to be opened at L'ton on the 24<sup>th</sup> & as I have visitations to the festivities, I think I shall go up there for two or three days. I've went up on Thursday to play in the Tennis Match on Saturday. I hear that the South has been badly beaten, but this was to have been expected as most of the Southerners had been ill, & were in very bad form.

Sean's brother in law - Will Rose - Hettys husband - came down with me from Launceston. He seems a very nice steady & sensible fellow. It is a pity that Cissy's husband is not like him. From all that I hear Cissy's husband is a



irreclaimable blackguard.  
It is very sad. She is only 21  
She has 3 children. Her husband  
has been in gaol for some  
embezzlement business.

Mrs Holmes came here on  
Friday night. She is simply  
reveling in having a holiday,  
without being bothered with  
her husband's relations as she  
was last time. She keeps on  
remarking on the delight of  
being in Hobart. She is a  
good old soul. Very little  
altered from what she was  
when you painted her, which  
she says is 6 years ago. How  
the time flies!

After calling at Mrs Spred's  
this evening I went to meet  
Horse to Supper. They are



all well, having escaped the influenza. George is up with his wife. She seems greatly improved - quite staid & ladylike. Henry gets more absurd every day. I really think he is a bit cracked, - some of the madness that comes in on the Rous side of the family. Yet he is decidedly clever in a way, though it is a cleverness that will never lead to any practical result.

Did I tell you that I had a letter from Poulet from Sydney. He had been to New Guinea but said nothing about his trip. His whole letter was about Huxley's article on the Flood! What an absurd

creature it is!

Don't forget to make studies from pictures &c of Naval costume about the time of the battle of Trafalgar 1804. Without these you will never be able to paint the Collins landing picture which ought to make you famous here. You must make lots of studies of costume & ships. You will find lots of material in the Louvre. Write to me about it.

I am set on your doing the picture. We are anxious to hear about your Paris experience. You must take great care of yourself now you are so far from Norway.

The mother is very cheerful - but we have not yet been able to get her away anywhere. She sends her dear love.

I must conclude with my blessing - Your ever affect<sup>e</sup>. Frances is away recovering. Mr Keep the stamps. No servant!!